

**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
UTILITY DIVISION
AGENDA NO. 98-12-21**

Date Prepared: December 17, 1998
For Work Week Commencing: December 21, 1998
Business Meeting: December 21, 1998, 10:00 a.m.

General Introduction This agenda is the Commission's Utility Division agenda for the work week designated. In the later part of each week (generally, Thursday by 2:00 p.m.) prior to the work week to which an agenda pertains, the agenda is posted on the public information bulletin board at the Commission offices, deposited in the mail directed to all persons who have properly requested notice by mail, placed on the state electronic bulletin board, and posted to the Public Service Commission's worldwide web site located at <http://www.psc.mt.gov>.

Place of Meetings All meetings are held at the Commission offices, 1701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, Montana, unless otherwise noted.

Inquiries General inquiries concerning this Utility Division agenda and subscribing to notice by mail may be made to Dennis Crawford at (406) 444-6182 or Dan Elliott at (406) 444-6187. They may refer inquiries to another person within the agency.

Accommodation for Persons with Disabilities Anyone needing an accommodation for physical, hearing, or sight impairment in order to attend a scheduled meeting should contact the Commission secretary at (406) 444-6199 sufficiently prior to the meeting to allow accommodations to be made.

Work Sessions All items identified below are for Commission discussion or action on the day designated (Dan).

1. DukeSolutions Docket N98.12.287 – Electricity Supplier Application – Discuss/act on application (12/22/98)
2. Commercial Energy Docket N98.9.210 - Electricity Supplier Application – Discuss/act on granting full license (12/22/98)
3. MPC Docket D97.7.90 – Discussion and action on USBC to determine whether to issue an order by the end of the year (12/22/98)
4. Great Falls Gas Docket D98.3.68 – Restructuring – Discussion, direction, action on final order, as needed, if needed (12/22/98)
5. MDU Docket D98.11.274 – Application for Approval of a Negotiated Transportation Service Agreement – Review and/or approve MDU's request to deviate from the Commission approved Rate 82 price floor (12/22/98)

6. Columbia Heights Water Docket D98.10.246 – Discussion, direction and action on all pending orders (12/22/98)
7. NWPA v. PSC and USWC Docket D96.12.220 – Discussion, action, update as necessary on pending jurisdictional (12/22/98)
8. USWC – Cellular Loaner Program for Held Order Customers – Discuss 12/11/98 letter from USWC to Chairman Fisher in which USWC commits to continuing the cellular loaner program (12/22/98)
9. PSC Report to legislature on Universal Service and Universal Access – Obtain PSC approval of draft report as final (12/22/98)
10. USWC 271 Filing D97.5.87 – USWC's Motion to Compel and AT&T's response, if any, to be filed by December 18, 1998. (12/22/98)

Weekly Scheduling Meeting – Will be held at 9:45 a.m. on the day of the Business Meeting

Action Items All items identified below are for action at the Commission business meeting.

1. CITIZENS UTILITIES DOCKET NO. D98.12.286 (Eric)

On December 7, 1998, Citizens filed an application proposing to transfer all of the Communications Business Sector's stock and ownership control of the Communications subsidiaries to a new holding company, Citizens Newco Company. Citizens represents that the proposed transaction will not adversely affect the quality of service, rates or reliability of service of the Montana Local Exchange Company. The local exchange rates charged by CTC-Montana will not change. Staff recommends approval.

2. CITIZENS 1+ DIALING PARITY D98.10.222 (Karen)

On October 2, 1998, AT&T Communications of the Mountain States, Inc. filed a letter evidencing its "bona fide request" to Citizens Communications to implement 1+ intraLATA dialing parity by means of the 2-PIC method. Citizens implemented intraLATA dialing parity in 1996. AT&T has withdrawn its request and no further Commission action is necessary or appropriate. A draft order closing the docket has been prepared. Staff recommends approval.

3. CENTURY 1+ DIALING PARITY D98.10.221 (Karen)

On October 2, 1998, AT&T Communications of the Mountain States, Inc. filed a letter evidencing its "bona fide request" to CenturyTel to implement 1+ intraLATA dialing parity by means of the 2-PIC method. CenturyTel implemented intraLATA dialing parity several years ago by the 1-PIC method. AT&T has withdrawn its request and no further Commission action is necessary or appropriate. A draft order closing the docket has been prepared. Staff recommends approval.

4. 3 RIVERS 1+ DIALING PARITY D98.10.234 (Karen)

On October 2, 1998, AT&T Communications of the Mountain States, Inc. filed a letter evidencing its "bona fide request" to 3 Rivers Telephone Cooperative to implement 1+ intraLATA dialing parity by means of the 2-PIC method. 3 Rivers implemented intraLATA dialing parity in August of 1998. No further Commission action is necessary or appropriate. A draft order closing the docket has been prepared. Staff recommends approval.

5. RANGE 1+ DIALING PARITY D98.10.231 (Karen)

On October 2, 1998, AT&T Communications of the Mountain States, Inc. filed a letter evidencing its "bona fide request" to Range Telephone Cooperative to implement 1+ intraLATA dialing parity by means of the 2-PIC method. Range implemented intraLATA dialing parity on December 16, 1997. AT&T has withdrawn its request and no further Commission action is necessary or appropriate. A draft order closing the docket has been prepared. Staff recommends approval.

6. U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS – Docket N98.12.283 (Nina)

On December 3, 1998, U S West Communications filed Tariff Transmittal 98-AC05 "SCD Revision", to their Montana Access Tariff. This filing is to eliminate the per line charge rate element for Selective Carrier Denial charges to Carriers. This was a notice item on 12/14/98. Staff recommends approval.

Notice Items All items identified below are noticed for public participation purposes. Unless otherwise stated in the text of the notice, the items will be action items on the next following agenda or a subsequent agenda and participation may be had by submitting written comments to the Public Service Commission, 1701 Prospect Avenue, P.O. Box 202601, Helena, Montana, 59620-2601, within 5 calendar days following publication of this agenda.

1. US WEST COMMUNICATIONS – Docket N98.12.282 (Vicki)

On December 3, 1998, US West filed tariff pages introducing the Business Line Promotion. The promotion includes: 1) a \$25 reduction in the nonrecurring charges when subscribing to an additional flat business line or analog Centrex 21 stabilized line as well as a \$75 coupon redeemable after the service is retained for 90 days; 2) waiver of the nonrecurring charge when regrading from a flat residence line to a flat business line; 3) waiver of the nonrecurring charge when subscribing to

any business custom calling feature or call management feature; 4) a \$10 credit when subscribing to Volume Calling Connection or Business Daytime Connection Plus; and 5) a waiver of the nonrecurring charge when subscribing to US West Custom Ringing Service. The promotional period is from January 4 through February 26, 1999.

2. U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS – Docket N98.12.288 (Tina)

On December 8, 1998, USWC filed Tariff Transmittal 98-54 to modify calling plans. This filing increases the volume discounts for Volume Calling Connection and Volume Calling Connection – Multilocation Plan. It also reduces the rates for the Simple Value Calling Plan.

Information Items All items identified below are for information only.

D98.11.269, MDU complaint, Notice of Staff Action – Waiving the ten-day automatic denial provision pertaining to PSC rulings on motions for reconsideration (ARM 38.2.4806(2))

Tentative Action Items for Agenda 99-1-4

Docket N98.12.282 – USWC – Business Line Promotion Tariff Filing
Docket N98.12.288 – USWC - Volume Calling Connection and Volume Calling Connection – Multilocation Plan

New Filings Received in Past Week

Docket N98.12.288 – USWC – Montana Calling Connection Plan Change.

Docket D98.12.289 - Treeline Springs Limited Liability Company - Application for Initial Water Service and Wastewater Disposal Rates.